3. Freedom to time charter out Indian ships to foreign shipping companies.

4. Acquisition of vessels through bare boat charter-cum-demise method.

5. Quarterly Block Allocation Scheme for repair of ships has been dispensed with entirely and Reserve Bank of India releases foreign exchange for ship repair/dry docking and spares for imported capital goods without any value limit.

6. Freight charges on account of movement of fertilizer and petroleum products are now allowed to be paid in convertible currency on par with other commodities.

Upgradatioin of Cochin Shipyard

*131. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cochin Shipyard has taken up only ship repair because non-remunerative prices were offered for ship building;

(b) whether railway wagon building or similar works on a regular basis are under consideration for optimum utilisation of Shipyard capacity; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to upgrade the technique and technology of the Yard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Due to lack of orders and non-remunerative prices of ships resulting in sizeable cost price gap, the Cochin Shipyard Limited has stepped up the ship repair activities so as to utilize its available capacity and manpower.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Renewal of free railway passes to freedom fighters

*132. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI N.E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the renewal of freedom fighters' free railway passes has been suspended in Vijayawada and in all other divisions of South Central Railway for the last few weeks; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to make the passes available in these divisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Violation of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

*133. SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI:
SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present position in regard to violation of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 by over 38 large and medium industrial units in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to issue prosecution notices to these units by January 31, 1993; and

(c) if so, whether the notices have since been issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) According to the information provided by the Central Pollution Control Board, there are 25 defaulting units, which have not taken the required steps to instal pollution control devices within the given time to the satisfaction of the State Pollution Control Boards.